

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-20. (Canceled)

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21. (Currently Amended) In a hydraulically settable inorganic binder-based construction adhesive which is cementitious or cement-free, in which an aqueous polymer dispersion or redispersible polymer powder is added, the improvement comprising adding as at least a portion of said aqueous polymer dispersion or redispersible polymer powder, a polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization in the presence of a protective colloid, said polymer prepared from monomers comprising at least one vinyl ester monomer and from 0.2 to 1.5 weight percent, based on the total weight of all monomers, of an auxiliary monomer having a water solubility higher than vinyl acetate, wherein said cementitious construction adhesives comprises from 5 to 80 weight percent cement, from 5 to 80 weight percent of filler, and from 0.5 to 60 weight percent protective colloid stabilized polymer solids powder ~~when a redispersible polymer powder is employed~~, [[and]] wherein said protective colloid is a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol having a degree of hydrolysis less than or equal to 95 mol percent, and wherein said weight percents of cement, filler, and protective colloid stabilized polymer solids are based on the total weight of said construction adhesive.

22. (Previously presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said auxiliary monomer is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.0 weight percent.

23. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said auxiliary monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids and anhydrides thereof, ethylenically unsaturated carboxamides, ethylenically unsaturated carbonitriles, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, and salts of the acid monomers of this group.

24. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21, wherein said auxiliary monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, acrylamide, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, maleic anhydride, acrylamidoglycolic acid, and itaconic acid.

25. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21, wherein said monomers further comprise at least one monomer or monomer mixture selected from the group consisting of ethylene, ethylene and fumaric acid, ethylene and maleic acid diesters, ethylene and vinyl chloride, acrylic acid esters, and ethylene and acrylic acid esters.

26. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said at least one vinyl ester monomer comprises vinyl acetate.

27. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said at least one vinyl ester monomer comprises a mixture of vinyl acetate and a vinyl ester other than vinyl acetate.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said protective colloid comprises at least one polyvinyl alcohol selected from the group consisting of partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity in a 4% by weight aqueous solution of from 1 to 30 mPas, and partially hydrolyzed, hydrophobically modified polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity in 4% by weight aqueous solution of from 1 to 30 mPas.

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30. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization is prepared from monomers comprising vinyl acetate, ethylene, and from 0.5 to 1.0 weight percent of at least one auxiliary monomer.

31. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21, which is a cementitious adhesive.

32. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 which is a cement-free adhesive.

33. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 32 wherein said adhesive comprises gypsum as an inorganic binder.

34. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 which is selected from the group consisting of exterior insulation system adhesives, tile adhesives, mortar, and concrete.

35. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization is in the form of a redispersible polymer powder.

36. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 35 which is in the form of a dry mix.

37. (Previously Presented) A process for improving the tensile strength of a set cementitious or cement-free, inorganic binder-based construction adhesive, the improvement comprising incorporating into a settable cementitious or cement free construction adhesive a protective colloid stabilized aqueous polymer dispersion or redispersible polymer powder prepared therefrom, the polymer of said aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by copolymerizing monomers comprising a vinyl ester monomer, and from 0.2 to 1.5 weight

percent based on the weight of all monomers of at least one auxiliary monomer having a water solubility greater than vinyl acetate.

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37 wherein said monomers comprise vinyl acetate, ethylene, and at least one auxiliary monomer in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.0 weight percent.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the at least one auxiliary monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, acrylamide, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, maleic anhydride, acrylamidoglycolic acid, and itaconic acid.

40. (Previously Presented) The construction adhesive of claim 1 which is an exterior insulation system adhesive.

41. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21, wherein said auxiliary monomer having a water solubility greater than vinyl acetate is selected from the group consisting of acrylamide, 2-acrylamido-2methylpropanesulfonic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, acrylamidoglycolic acid, and maleic anhydride.

42. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 41, wherein said auxiliary monomer having a water solubility greater than vinyl acetate is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.0 percent by weight, based on the weight of said vinyl ester polymer.